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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/049,384 | 06/12/2002 | Masanobu Hira | 04783/022001 | 3806 |
| 22511 | 7590 | 08/06/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| OSHA & MAY L.L.P. 1221 MCKINNEY STREET HOUSTON, TX 77010 | | | NGUYEN, CINDY | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2171 | |

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/049,384 | Applicant(s) HIRA, MASANOBU | |
| | Examiner Cindy Nguyen | Art Unit 2171 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to application filed on 06/12/02 in which claims 1-11 are presented for examination.

Priority(IDS)

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8, 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultz (U.S 5737734) in view of Zieman (U.S 6401061).

Regarding claims 1 and 10, Schultz discloses: A keyword inferring device and method, wherein, based on a predetermined keyword acquired by user operation (a set of search parameters input by the user of user station, see col. 22, lines 45-67, Schultz), an abstract keyword (as proper noun word) which semantically contains the keyword is acquired (col. 23, lines 65 to col. 24, lines 18, Schultz). However, Schultz didn't disclose: based on said abstract keyword, one or more concrete keywords which are semantically contained by the abstract keyword are acquired. On the other hand, Zieman discloses: : based on said abstract keyword, one or more concrete keywords which are

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semantically contained by the abstract keyword are acquired (col. 10, lines 24-67, Zieman). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include concrete keywords which are semantically contained by the abstract keyword are acquired in the system of Schultz as taught by Zieman. The motivation being to enable the system provides dictionary and semantic factors are grouped together and the group converted to the concepts by comparing with the semantic index, the output is presented which is a preferred embodiment includes pointers to the object (col. 10, lines 24-67, Zieman).

Regarding claims 2 and 11, Schultz/Zieman discloses: An inferring device, and recording media on which is recorded a program which realized predetermined function in a computer characterized in that said program comprising: keyword acquisition means, which acquires a predetermined keyword from user operation (a set of search parameters input by the user of user station, see col. 22, lines 45-67, Schultz); abstract keyword acquisition means, which, based on said predetermined keyword, acquires an abstract keyword which semantically contains the keyword (col. 23, lines 65 to col. 24, lines 18, Schultz); and concrete keyword acquisition means, which, base on said abstract keyword, acquires a concrete keyword with is semantically contained by the abstract keyword (col. 5, lines 46 to col. 6, lines 13, Zieman).

Regarding claim 3, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that said keyword acquisition means analyzes a predetermined character string into word units (col. 6, lines 1-14, Zieman); judges whether said analyzed words exist in a predetermined dictionary; and if it is judged that

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said analyzed words exist in the predetermined dictionary, acquires said words and said predetermined keywords (col. 5, lines 29-57, Zieman).

Regarding claim 4, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that said abstract keyword acquisition means takes said predetermined keyword as an input keyword (col. 7, lines 36-47, Zieman); judges whether said input keyword exists in a predetermined dictionary; if it is judged that said input keyword exists in the predetermined dictionary, judges whether said predetermined dictionary defines an abstract keyword for said input keyword; and, if it is judged that said predetermined dictionary defines an abstract keyword for said input keyword, outputs said abstract keyword (col. 10, lines 23 to col. 11, lines 21, Zieman).

Regarding claim 5, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 4. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that, if it is judged that said predetermined dictionary does not define an abstract keyword for said input keyword, said abstract keyword acquisition means outputs an abstract keyword based on predetermined explanatory text and a predetermined text file defined by said predetermined dictionary for said input keyword (col. 7, lines 47-56, Zieman).

Regarding claim 6, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that said concrete keyword acquisition means takes said abstract keyword as an input keyword (col. 7, lines 36-47, Zieman); judges whether said input keyword exists in a predetermined dictionary; if it is judged that said input keyword exists in the predetermined dictionary, judges whether said predetermined dictionary defines a concrete keyword for said input keyword; and, if it is judged that said

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predetermined dictionary defines a concrete keyword for said input keyword, outputs said concrete keyword (col. 8, lines 11-60, Zieman).

Regarding claim 7, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 6. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that, if it is judged that said predetermined dictionary does not define a concrete keyword for said input keywords said concrete keyword acquisition means outputs a concrete keyword based on predetermined explanatory text and a predetermined text file defined by said predetermined dictionary for said input keyword (col. 7, lines 47-65, Zieman).

Regarding claim 8, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 2. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses: characterized in that said inferring device computes an occurrence rate for each abstract keyword acquired by said abstract keyword acquisition means, and said concrete keyword acquisition means acquires said concrete keyword based on an abstract keyword for which said occurrence rate is equal to or greater than a Predetermined value (col. 25, lines 10-38, Schultz).

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schultz (U.S. 5737734) in view of Zieman (U.S. 6401061) and further in view of Namba et al (U.S. 5555169) (Namba).

Regarding claim 9, all the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. It is therefore rejected as set forth above. In addition, Schultz/Zieman discloses:

first presentation means, which presents a search conditions input screen (102, fig. 1 and (col. 22, lines 45-67, Schultz);

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first reception means, which receives first input information obtained by user operation on said search conditions input screen (102, fig. 1 and (col. 22, lines 45-67, Schultz);

second presentation means which performs a search based on said first input information, and presents a search results output screen (112, fig. 1 and col. 26, lines 27-65, Schultz);

second reception means, which receives second input information obtained by user operation on said search results output screen (col. 26, lines 27-65, Schultz); and,

However, Schultz/Zieman didn't disclose: configuration means, which configures a first frame based on said first input information, and configures a second frame, positioned below said first frame, based on said second input information. On the other hand, Namba discloses: configuration means, which configures a first frame based on said first input information, and configures a second frame, positioned below said first frame, based on said second input information (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 27-49, Namba). Thus, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include concrete keywords which are semantically contained by the abstract keyword are acquired in the combination system of Schultz/ Zieman as taught by Namba. The motivation being to enable the system provides a basis structure of the chained functions structure in which a concept is represented as a node and the relationship between the concepts is represented as a link (fig. 2 and col. 6, lines 27-49, Namba).


Contact Information

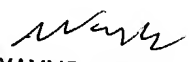
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-4698. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.


Cindy Nguyen
July 28, 2004


WAYNE AMSBURY
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER